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JUNE 28, 2012

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

clean water act — south carolina state revolving fund

PROJECT: East Richland County Public Service District
Quail Lane Pump Station Force Main and
Gills Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Force Main
Richland County

This Department, under Section 48-5-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve wastewater preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. Our review has determined that implementation of the plan identified below will not cause a significant environmental impact and the Department hereby issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

This FNSI precedes approval of the PER entitled "Preliminary Engineering Report for the East Richland County Public Service District," dated April 2012. The plan recommends the installation of the Quail Lane Pump Station force main and the Gills Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) effluent force main. The East Richland County Public Service District will implement the plan. The following Environmental Assessment summarizes the environmental effects of the proposed facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Need for New Facilities: The East Richland County Public Service District owns and operates the Gills Creek WWTP and has a current permitted capacity of 16.0 million gallons per day (MGD). However, the Quail Lane pump station is unable to send the required peak daily flow to the Gills Creek WWTP. The flow from the pump station is pumped through two force mains; one of which is in poor condition and has required repair several times over the last few years. Additionally, the WWTP effluent pumping system is unable to pump the permitted capacity to the Congaree River and therefore, a larger effluent force main is needed to meet the conveyance requirements.

Proposed Facilities: The attached figure shows the project location.

The proposed project will construct approximately 41,000 linear feet of new 42-inch force main from the Quail Lane Pump Station to the Gills Creek WWTP. The force main route follows the I-77 right-of-way for the majority of the route. Additionally, the project will include the construction of approximately 11,000 linear feet of new 36-inch effluent force main from the Gills Creek WWTP to the Congaree River. The new effluent force main will be constructed adjacent to the existing effluent force main, which will be maintained and serve for emergency situations only in the event the new effluent line becomes unable to convey the treated effluent. The estimated total capital cost for the project is \$26,821,645.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

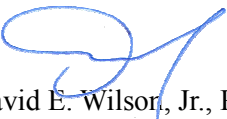
The proposed project will protect the water quality of the Congaree River by conveying wastewater to be treated at the Gills Creek WWTP and then providing a means to discharge the treated effluent into the Congaree River. This project will reduce the potential for sewer system overflows into Gills Creek. No long-term environmental impacts will result from the proposed activities. The majority of the construction will be confined to the areas within the right-of-way of I-77.

Implementation of the proposed project is not expected to violate any of the environmental crosscutting authorities that apply to projects receiving Federal assistance. The following crosscutting authorities were considered before arriving at this conclusion: important farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, floodplains, archaeological or historical sites, threatened or endangered species, national natural landmarks, sole source aquifers, sensitive coastal zone resources, and impaired air quality. Although wetlands and floodplains occur in the planning area, the proposed project will be designed to result in minimal impacts to these wetlands and floodplains (e.g., preconstruction contours will be restored). Short-term, minor disturbances associated with construction - such as traffic interference, noise, dust, vegetation loss, erosion and sedimentation - will be minimized through the use of best-management construction practices.

COMMENTS

Comments in support or disagreement received within 30 days of the date of this FNSI will be evaluated before approval of the preliminary engineering report. If you wish to comment, please email Shawn Clarke at shawn.clarke@dhec.sc.gov or write to:

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State Revolving Fund Section
Water Facilities Permitting Division
Bureau of Water
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
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David E. Wilson, Jr., P.E., Chief
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SRF Project 524-25 -- East Richland County PSD Force Main Projects

 Location Map

